No.
6

Again!!

アゲイン!!

Mitsurou Kubo

Mitsurou
Kubo
Again!!
アゲイン!!
No.
6

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53.
WHY, WHY DID WE

NOW,
DO A CUTE LITTLE TWIRL!

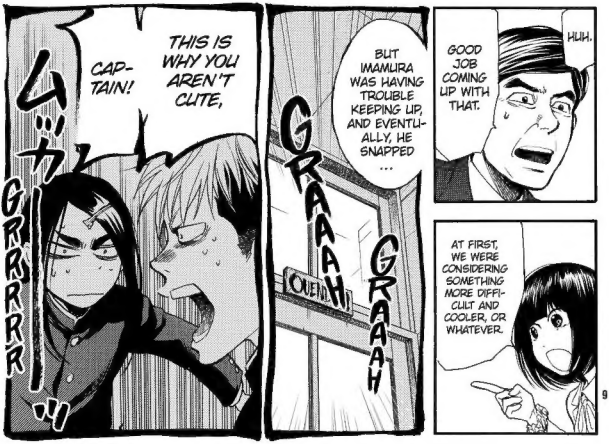
MR. PRINCIPAL! DANCE CUTER!
KITAJIMA-SENSEI!
CLAP
CLAP
...
DUM
DUH
DUH
NOT DONE YET!
EVEN CUTER!
DADUM
DUH
DUM TAKKA TAK

ドドドドドド
DADUM
AND FOR THE FINALE, BLOW A CUTE LITTLE KISS!
BADONK
くいっ
YOU GUYS! WHY ARE YOU BEING SO SHY?! COME ON!

I KNOW YOU CAN DANCE CUTER THAN THAT, DAMN IT!
YOU UGLY SKANKS CALL THAT CUTE?!
GOD...
CHATTER
CUTE THIS, CUTE THAT. WHY?
BWA HA HA HA
THAT'S AWESOME!
CLAP
CLAP
KANAN
PHEW...
GOOD. LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GETTING INTO IT.
FUJI-EDA,
WHEN DID THEY COME UP WITH A CHEER LIKE THIS?
WE ALL STAYED UP LATE LAST NIGHT WORKING ON IT.
IT'S OUR NEW WAY OF CHEER-ING!
MOST EVERY-ONE'S JOINED IN BY NOW.
OH! KITAJIMA-SENSEI.
ISN'T IT GREAT?

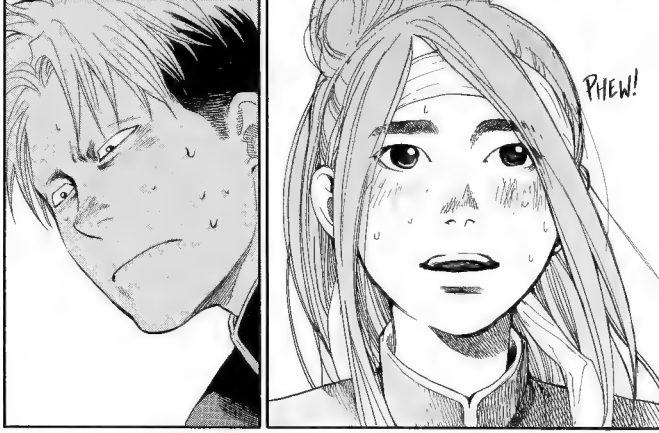
SINCE WE NEEDED CHEERING TO BE FUN!
CHATTER
CHATTER
WE FIGURED WE SHOULD GET EVERYONE DANCING.

SO, WE THOUGHT WE COULD GET PEOPLE TO OPEN UP A LITTLE BY TELLING THEM TO BE CUTER INSTEAD OF TO GO HARDER.
EVEN I'M CUTER THAN YOU PUKES!
AND WE'D JUST MAKE THEM FEEL BAD BY YELLING AT THEM.
WE KNEW PEOPLE MIGHT TAKE A WHILE TO LEARN THE MOVES,


THIS IS WHY YOU AREN'T CUTE,
CAP-TAIN!
ムッカ
GRRRRR!!
BUT IMAMURA WAS HAVING TROUBLE KEEPING UP, AND EVENTU-ALLY, HE SNAPPED ...
GRAAAH
QUIET!!
GRAAH
HUH.
GOOD JOB COMING UP WITH THAT.
AT FIRST, WE WERE CONSIDERING SOMETHING MORE DIFFI-CULT AND COOLER, OR WHATEVER.

ROAR
YOU WANT CUTE, HUH?!
HEY!
HEY!
DUM
DA DUM
WHOA.
WOW, THAT IS CUTE!
THAT'S PRETTY GOOD!
AND SO, WE ALL DID SOME BRAIN-STORMING, AND DECIDED ON THIS.
...
WAIT ...
USAMI DID THAT?

SHE'S GROWN SO MUCH SINCE BACK WHEN SHE WAS THE ONLY MEMBER.
HMM
AND SHE WAS ABLE TO DO IT EVEN WITH THE OUENDAN'S CURRENT MEMBERSHIP... OHHH, THAT'S SO TOUCHING!
SHE ARGUED AND PLAYED AROUND WITH HER PEERS TO WORK OUT A COMPROMISE THAT COULD BE PUT INTO ACTION?
IT'S OKAY! THEY'RE INTO IT!
KYAA


PHEW!

WHOA.
IMA-MURA'S GOT THAT STUPID LOOK ON HIS FACE AGAIN.
HURR.
HURR.
IT PISS-ES ME OFF!
HE SERIOUSLY DOES LIKE THE CAPTAIN, DOESN'T HE?
WHAT'S UP, KITA-JIMA-SENSEI ?
OH, UH.
NOTH-ING.

JUST ...
I'M SURPRISED TO SEE USAMI LOOK SO NEEDY.
IT WORRIES ME A LITTLE.

LOOKS LIKE THE CAPTAIN'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
THE GAME IS ABOUT TO START!
IN THE WORLD BEFORE THIS DO-OVER, WE LOST THE MATCH AND SHE DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL WITHOUT EVEN GETTING TO REALLY CHEER.
BUT HERE IN THIS WORLD, I WANT TO LET HER HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY.
LET THE FIGHT SONG BEGIN!
PANG
NEED A BREAK?
I'M OKAY.
WHAT'S WRONG, SHIBATA?
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
I'M FINE.
YOU CAN BARELY STAND.
She can tell what's going on.
PANG

AAAAAGH!
ボロ DRIP
ボロ DRIP
RIGHT!
SUZUKI!
IT'S GO TIME!
KANAN
KANAN
KANAN

BA-DUMP
ドキン…

HEY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SHIBATA?
UHH…
UHH…
ARE YOU OKAY?
Y-YEAH…

SORRY.
I'LL REST HERE FOR A BIT. YOU CAN GO.
UHH…
OKAY?
HIC
HIC
HUSH
しーん…
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER?
I DON'T GET IT.
What a pain...
WELL…
TURN
THE GAME'S ABOUT TO START, SO I'M GOING.
GR
AB
WAIT.
"WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER? I DON'T GET IT. WHAT A PAIN."
THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE JUST THINKING, ISN'T IT?
WHAT?!
NO, I MEAN…
…

IMA-MURA-KUN,
I LIKE YOU.
BUT YOU DON'T FEEL THE SAME, DO YOU?
HUH?
!!!
FWIP
!!!

LATELY...
THINGS HAVE BEEN SO HARD FOR ME.
ALL I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO IS SIT AND WATCH WHILE YOU AND CAPTAIN USAMI KEEP GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, AND I HATE IT. I HATE IT SO MUCH.
I'VE TRIED SO MANY TIMES TO GET OVER THESE FEELINGS.
BUT WHEN I LOOK AT THE TWO OF YOU, IT'S LIKE EVERY CELL IN MY BODY IS SCREAMING.
I CAN'T CONTROL IT.
I CAN'T HIDE IT ANYMORE. I CAN'T JUST PUT ON A SMILE AND CHEER ALONGSIDE EVERYONE.
KANAN
SO...
WOOOO

WOOO...
I'LL GIVE UP ON YOU IF YOU KISS ME.

WOULD THAT BE OKAY?

Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
DUM
DUM
DUM
SHIBATA...
...
...WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
DUM
OHHH, WE WHOOO...
"I'LL GIVE UP ON YOU IF YOU KISS ME."
"MAMURA-KUN, I LIKE YOU."
...WILL STUUUDY AND
"ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
DUM
DUM

DID YOU HEAR ME?
IMAMURA-KUN, ARE YOU LISTENING?
...
...
...
DUM
THIS CALLS FOR...
THE ACE UP MY SLEEVE!
WHOOPS, SOUNDS LIKE THE FIGHT SONG IS STARTING. I BETTER GET GOING...
UH...
SORRY, WHAT WAS THAT? I WASN'T REALLY PAYING ATTENTION.
BUUUUHHHH
GRAB

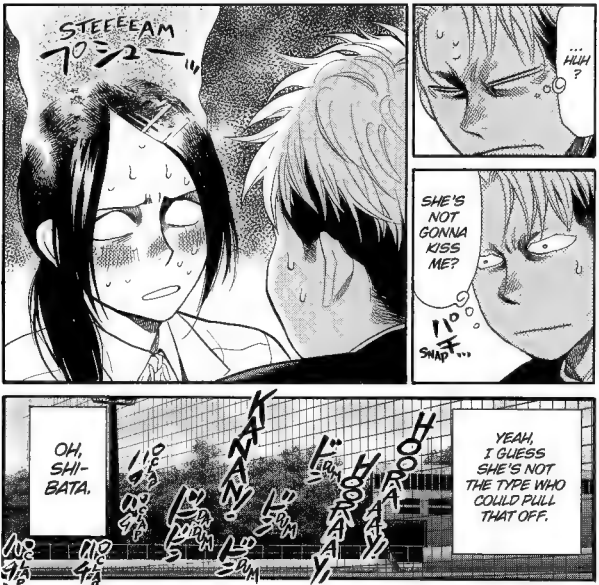
SHE'S MAD?!
NO, NO, NO!
UMM...
UMM...
DO I LOOK STUPID TO YOU?
SQUEEEEZE
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DODGE THE QUESTION, YOU COULD AT LEAST COME UP WITH A MORE CONVINCING EXCUSE.

BUT IF I HAVE TO KEEP SUFFERING LIKE THIS, I CAN'T PROMISE THAT I WON'T GET EVEN WEIRDER.
I KNOW THIS IS AS MUCH AS YOU'RE EVER GOING TO LIKE ME.

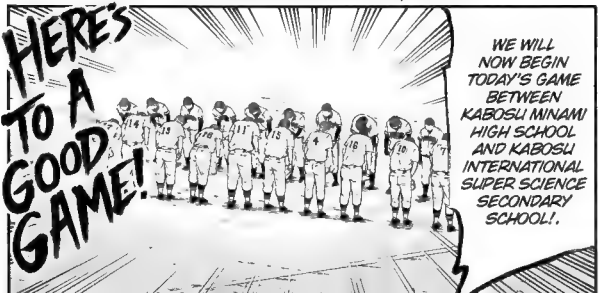
GLINT
JUST LET ME DO THIS ONE THING, AND THAT'LL BE THE END OF IT.
OKAY?
SO,
LET ME KISS YOU!

I DON'T LIKE WHERE THIS IS GOING!
I-
I AM
DUM
DA DUM
DUM
DUM

MY FIRST KISS WAS WITH THE CAPTAIN, AND NOW I'M HERE LISTENING TO HER CHEER...
HOORAY!
WHILE I'M BEING KISSED BY SOMEONE ELSE!
THIS WORLD IS FRICKIN' BONKERS!
HOORAY!
KANAN!


STEEEAM
...HUH?
SHE'S NOT GONNA KISS ME?
SNAP...
YEAH, I GUESS SHE'S NOT THE TYPE WHO COULD PULL THAT OFF.
OH, SHIBATA.
HOORAY!
KAAN!
I DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA LOSE IT AND KISS ME LIKE THE CAPTAIN DID.
?
YOU MEAN SHE DIDN'T KISS YOU BECAUSE SHE LIKES YOU?
OH, NO WAY! NOT A CHANCE!
I MEAN...
SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME.
PROBABLY.

I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
WELL, I REALLY DO LIKE YOU, IMAMURA-KUN!
UH, RIGHT.
SORRY.
NO ONE'S EVER LIKED ME BEFORE.
AND I'VE NEVER LIKED SOMEONE, EITHER, SO I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO.


HERE'S TO A GOOD GAME!
WE WILL NOW BEGIN TODAY'S GAME BETWEEN KABOSU MINAMI HIGH SCHOOL AND KABOSU INTERNATIONAL SUPER SCIENCE SECONDARY SCHOOL!.

YOU MEAN YOU DON'T THINK I'M ANNOYING?
WOOOO
NO. WHY WOULD I? JUST, I NEVER SAW YOU THAT WAY, SO NOW THAT YOU'RE DUMPING THIS ON ME, MY MIND'S SORT OF GOING BLANK...
DUM
DUM-
THEN...
DUM
...IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO LIKE YOU, IMAMURA-KUN?
I MEAN...
SURE, WHY NOT?
SHUP
PLAY BALL!

I'M
SO
GLAD!

STRIKE!
SHOOM
YEEEAH!

I DON'T MIND.
THAT'S FINE.
I CAN'T DO ANY-THING FOR YOU!
D-DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!
OKAY.
OKAY.

IMA-MURA-KUN...
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED YOU.
BOOOO
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SOME HUNK.
YEAH. I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A MONTH SINCE WE STARTED SCHOOL HERE.
AL-WAYS ?
YOU'RE COOL, THOUGH.
SQUEEZE
YOU EVEN HAVE FANS. REMEM-BER THOSE GIRLS FROM EARLIER?
STRIKE!
YER OUT!
DUM

WOOOOO
KANAN
KANAN
KANAN
KANAN
AT FIRST I WAS AFRAID OF YOU, BUT OVER TIME, I'VE FIGURED IT OUT.
YOU'RE ACTUALLY VERY KIND.
I AM NOT KIND!
THIS IS BAD. I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING.
YOU'RE SAYING THAT SO I WON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
IT JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW KIND YOU ARE.
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO CHEER-ING.
HOW THE HELL DO I GET OUT OF THIS?!

SHA
WING

HUH?
IT'S OVER!
WHAT? DOES THIS MEAN IT'S OVER?
YEP!
YOU PROMISED YOU'D GIVE UP ON ME IF I KISSED YOU!
WOOO
BUT YOU SAID IT WAS OKAY FOR ME TO LIKE YOU!
SHH!
...

WHEN THE GAME IS OVER,
LET'S PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF.

THREE OUTS! CHANGE SIDES.
KABOKOKU
0
KANAN

55. OVERTHINKING IT

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WITHOUT EYEBROWS, IMAMURA LOOKS SO CREEPY LAUGHING!
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING DIRTY.
Eww, gross!
OH! HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY.
WHAT A CREEP.
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Y'KNOW, DO YOU THINK IT WAS IMAMURA WHO STOLE THOSE UNIFORMS OUT OF OUR LOCKER ROOM?
Whaaa!?
I HEARD SOMEONE SAW HIM PROWLING AROUND NEARBY.
Whoooa
HE DOES SORT OF LOOK LIKE A CRIMINAL.
WOMEN...
...ARE SCARY.
I'LL PROBABLY GO THE REST OF MY LIFE...
No way!
...AND DIE HAVING NEVER OPENED MY HEART TO A GIRL.
Ah ha ha ha ha!

...FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...
...WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ALL ABOUT「?!
SO...
AA
A
...TO REALITY.
I HAVE TO GET BACK...

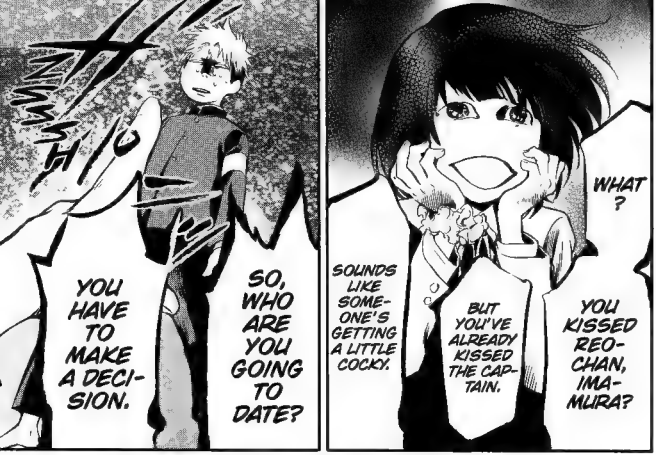
WOOOO...
OH, HEY.
WE'RE ALREADY ON OFFENSE.
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM

BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
COME ON, YOU ASS!
WHERE'D YOU GO?! YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE SKIPPING OUT!
IMA-MURA!
FLINCH
YOUR COVER'S BLOWN!
GLARE
GLARE
GLARE
IMA-MURA!
WE ALREADY KNOW YOU AND SHIBATA WERE MAKING OUT!
HUH?!
BADUMP

YOINK
?!
DON'T LOOK AT ME THAT WAY!
S-
STOP IT!
NO!
ARE YOU HIGH OR WHAT?! WAKE UP, DAMN IT!
SMACK
GASP
WHAT?
DO YOU ACTUALLY FEEL SICK?
UH, NO...
I'M FINE...
OH...

YEEEEAH!
WE'RE ON THE OFFENSE NOW!
RIGHT. HOW WOULD THEY HAVE EVEN FOUND OUT?
HAHAHA
SNIF
VEEERY...
SUSPI-CIOUS...
OH!
...
DUM
HEY, REO-CHAN! WHERE WERE YOU?
YOU'VE BEEN LOOK-ING PRETTY PALE. ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT SICK OR SOME-
DA DUM

ぽ°HNNNGH
SHINE
SHINE
WHAT ?!
DID SOME-THING GOOD HAPPEN?
...
SORRY.
I'LL GET BACK TO TAPING THINGS.
NOTHING GOOD EVER HAPPENS IN THIS HELL WORLD!
SHAKE
SHAKE
NO!
NUH-UH!
DAMN IT.
?!
FUJI-EDA...
That look...
SHIBATA, DON'T TELL ME YOU...


WHAT?
YOU KISSED REO-CHAN, IMAMURA?
BUT YOU'VE ALREADY KISSED THE CAPTAIN.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S GETTING A LITTLE COCKY.
SO, WHO ARE YOU GOING TO DATE?
YOU HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION.
HUSH!

NO WAY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D MAKE OUT DURING A GAME.
CHATTER
CHATTER
IS HE TWO-TIMING?
PERV.

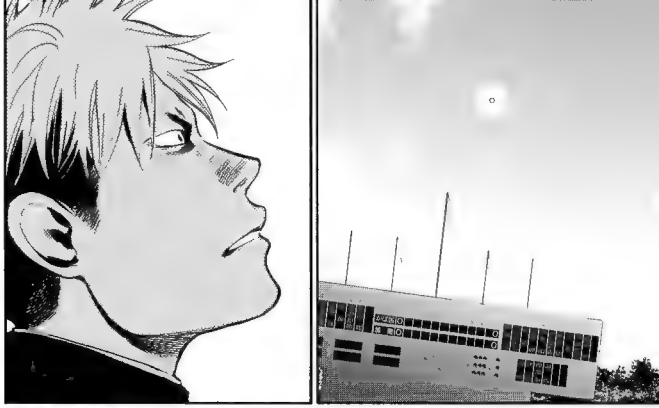
NO!
UNH...
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.
DON'T GO TELLING EVERYONE.
IMAMURA!
Get it together!
GASP
REALITY
THEN AGAIN, I DOUBT ANYTHING WOULD EVER HAPPEN BETWEEN THOSE TWO.
CHEERING...
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE CHEERING.

GO YAMA-OKA!
OUTTA THE PARK!
DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO
TUM TUM TUM TUM TUM TUM
KANAAAN!
GO TEAM!
LISTAARE!

DUM
DA DUM
SO,
ONCE THIS GAME IS OVER...
...DO I HAVE TO CHOOSE SOMEONE TO GO OUT WITH?
DUM
DUM
HEY, IMA-MURA!

I CAN'T FOLLOW BASE-BALL...
R-RIGHT...
GASP
WE'RE ENTERING THE TOP OF THE SECOND INNING WITH THE SCORE STILL AT 0-0. KABOKOKU'S ON OFFENSE NOW.
THAT MAKES THREE OUTS.
SUZUKI'S GOOD.
HE GOT THREE BATTERS OUT RIGHT AWAY IN THE FIRST INNING.
HIS SLIDER REALLY IS TOP-NOTCH.
WE COULD WIN TODAY IF THINGS KEEP UP LIKE THIS.
I'VE GOT TO CHEER SUZUKI ON LIKE I SAID I WOULD.
DUM
DUM
KANAN
DUM
DUM

I'M NOT SURE IT MATTERS HOW MUCH EFFORT I PUT INTO THIS, THOUGH.
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS GAME SHOULD WORK OUT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
IF KABOSU NINAMI MANAGES TO WIN...
...THEN I DOUBT THE CAPTAIN WILL DROP OUT.
AND THE OUENDAN MIGHT GET SOME NEW MEMBERS, TOO.
MAYBE SHE'LL BE FINE WITHOUT ME.
IF SO, THEN I-
カチィ
KATTING
HUH?



THUMP!
WAS THAT A HOME-RUN?
WOOOO

56. ISOLATION

WOOOOOO
AAAAAGH!
A HOME RUN?!
THAT PUTS KABOKOKU ONE RUN AHEAD.

THWUNK
AAAAGH.
WHAT THE HELL, SUZUKI?
YOU SUCK.
LISTEN UP!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE IN THE OUEN-DAN...
...I DON'T EVER WANT TO HEAR THAT AGAIN.
GOT IT?
YOU DON'T SAY "AAAAGH"!
NOW, GET IN TOUCH WITH HOW SUZUKI IS FEELING.
WE HAVE TO START THERE IF WE'RE GONNA CHEER HIM ON.
HUH?
GET IN TOUCH...?
WOOO!
PUMP

KABO KOKU!
KABO KOKU!
WE'RE NUMBER ONE!

GOD.
IT WAS JUST ONE RUN. NO NEED TO RUB IT IN.
DUM
THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL GAME WE'RE CHEERING AT. IT'S NOT LIKE MIDDLE SCHOOL.
ONE MORE RUN!
ONE MORE RUN!
DA DA DA

AS HIS FRIEND, YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE.
IMA-MURA,
SO, AFTER THAT, HOW DO YOU THINK HE FEELS, WATCHING THEM CHEER?
AND HE JUST LET KABO-KOKU TAKE THEIR FIRST RUN.
IT'S SU-ZUKI'S FIRST TIME PITCHING IN HIGH SCHOOL. HE'S SUP-POSED TO BE OUR ACE.
DUM DRUM
YAMA-CHAAA
OUTTA THE PARK!
18

WOOO

WE CAN'T CHEER WITH INSTRUMENTS OR NOISE-MAKERS WHILE OUR TEAM IS ON DEFENSE...
GULP
WE CAN'T CHEER WHILE SUZUKI'S PITCHING.

WOOOO
KOBAYASHI!!
DA DA DUM
SHUF
DA DUM
KOBAYASHI!!

I CAN'T IMAGINE HE'S TOO HAPPY ABOUT THAT...
HE PITCHES LEFT-HANDED, SO HE HAS TO WATCH THE FIRST-BASE STANDS WHERE KABOKOKU'S FANS ARE SEATED THE WHOLE TIME.
OHH...
FWOOSH
KINZO
TTING

WOOO
?!
TWITCH
ピク…
ズザーッ
SAFE!

ONE MORE RUN!
ONE MORE RUN!
WE'RE NUMBER ONE!
WOOOOO
KABO-KOKU!!
KABO-KOKU!!

SUZUKI!
CALM DOWN!
IT'S JUST ONE RUN! WE CAN STILL EVEN THE SCORE!
DUM
OH.
THIS ...
LOOKS BAD.
DA DUM
IT'S ALL THE SAME.
IT'S THE SAME PATTERN I'VE SEEN SO MANY TIMES.
DUM DUM
THEY'RE GONNA HIT THIS ONE.
FWOOSH
NAN

WOOOOO
KA-ING
THAT'S A WALK!
TING
TING
TING
TING
WHAT IS THIS, A PUBLIC EXECU-TION?!

ABOKOKU
06
KANAN
00
TING
HURK!
AAAAGH...
AAAAGH
SIIGH...
WHAAAT?!
AGAIN?!

IMA-MURA.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING THROUGH HIS HEAD?
HUH?
I DON'T KNOW ...
BUT IF IT WERE ME,
MY SPIRIT WOULD BE BROKEN BY NOW.
I'D JUST WANT TO GO HOME AND LET SOMEONE ELSE PITCH.
WOOOO
I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S THINKING,
"I WANT TO DIE."
HMM ...
AFTER SCORING ALL THOSE RUNS, THEY'VE GOT HIM RIGHT WHERE THEY WANT HIM.
ACE OR NOT, THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH A PERSON CAN TAKE.
TIME OUT!
SUZUKI.
DON'T PANIC.
KABOKOKU AREN'T EVEN ALL THAT GOOD.
RIGHT ...

I'M YOUR CAPTAIN AND YOUR CATCHER, SO JUST BELIEVE IN ME AND PITCH!
YOU GOT THAT?

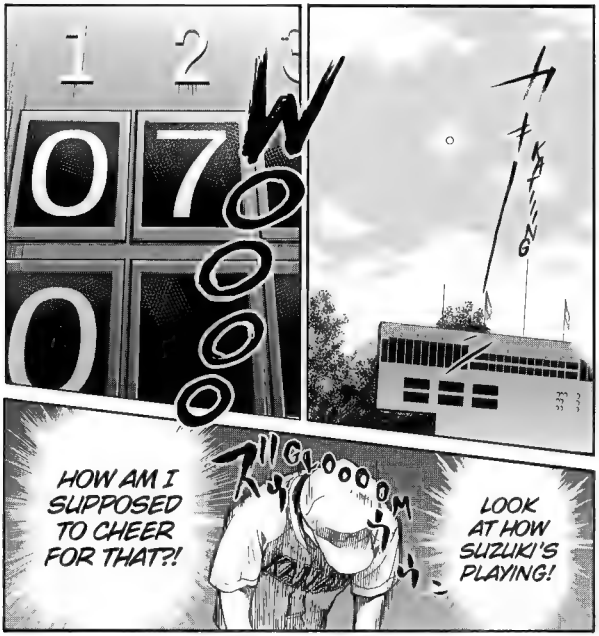
GO, SU-ZU-KI!
WOOOING
CAPTAIN, TAKE ME TO KOSHIEN!
...
SQUEE
SQUEE
SQUEEEEE
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FIRST INNING...
HEY! I JUST SAW SOME-THING CRAZY!
HEY! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE STANDS HELPING CHEER, MINEKO!
BUT, BUT, BUT! THIS IS AWFUL!

BAM
THAT BLOND GUY FROM THE OUENDAN, IMAMURA? HE WAS SKIPPING OUT ON CHEERING TO GO MAKE OUT!
SU-ZU-KIII!
GASP
KABO-KOKU!
KABO-KOKU!
WE'RE NUMBER ONE!
DUM
DADUM
DUM
GOD.

MUST BE NICE TO GET TO MAKE OUT WITH THE PERSON YOU LIKE.
THEY'RE ALL...
SO LUCKY.

WHAT AM I EVEN DOING HERE?
THEY SAY THE PITCHER STANDS ALONE...
...BUT I DON'T THINK THEY MEAN LIKE THIS.
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE

NO ONE'S GOING TO HELP ME.
NO ONE'S COMING TO MY RESCUE.


1 2
0 7
0
WOOOOO
KATTING
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CHEER FOR THAT?!
GLOOOOM
LOOK AT HOW SUZUKI'S PLAYING!
WHAT'S WRONG, IMAMURA?!
KSHAAAA
UNH ...
I GOT A LITTLE TOO IN TOUCH WITH SUZUKI'S FEELINGS.

57.
THE BATHROOM DUEL

THREE OUTS! CHANGE SIDES.
AND THAT'S IT FOR THE TOP OF THE SECOND INNING. KABOKOKU MANAGED TO SCORE A TON OF RUNS, AND PULL WAY AHEAD OF KANAN.
ABOKOKU
0 8
0
K
K
LET'S MOVE.
WE'RE CHANGING SIDES NOW!
...
GOOD JOB HANGING IN THERE.
SUZUKI!
KANAN

THAT TOOK FOR-EVER.
WE'RE FINALLY OUT OF THE TOP OF THE SECOND INNING.
I CAN'T KEEP WATCHING THEM GIVE UP RUN AFTER RUN LIKE THIS.
WHAT'S THAT DORK'S PROBLEM?
HE SUCKS.

MY OLDER BROTHER WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS THAT PITCHER.
HE SAYS HE BREAKS DOWN REALLY EASILY.
HE BREAKS DOWN? GOD!
LIKE, HE SAYS THAT HE CAN THROW THESE AMAZING PITCHES, BUT ONLY FOR THE FIRST INNING.
WOOOO
FOR REAL?
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
GAH!

COACH ...
SUZUKI!
ZUZUZUZU

BOW!!!
I'M SORRY, SIR!
I-
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, BOY?
GETTING TOO COCKY FOR YOUR OWN GOOD?
GET IT TOGETHER!
I'M NOT LETTING YOU OFF EASY FOR BEING A FIRST-YEAR!
YOU SHOULDN'T PLAY BASEBALL!
YKNOW,
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY ...

WHAT?!
BUT I'M GONNA HAVE YOU KEEP PITCHING UNTIL AT LEAST THE FIFTH INNING.

I BELIEVE IN YOU!
YOU GOT THIS!
ROAR
DON'T GIVE UP!
YEAH, YOU CAN DO IT!
DADUM

YOU CAN DO IT!
YOU CAN DO IT!
KANAN
KANAN
KANAN
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
I'M GONNA GO TO THE BATH-ROOM.
I-
...
YOU'LL BE UP TO BAT PRETTY SOON.
HURRY BACK.
YOU CAN DO IT!

SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH
KSSSH
DUM
DA DUM
DA DUM
DUM

SLAP
SLAP
SLAP

YEAH ...
I CAN'T LET THIS STUPID GAME GET TO ME.
IT'S JUST A PRACTICE GAME, ANYWAY. WHO CARES IF I SCREW IT UP? I'M ONLY A FIRST-YEAR.
WOOOO...
じんじん...
BOOHH
BOOHH
...

I WANT TO DIE.
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK OUT THERE.
NO…
UNH…
UNH, UUUNH…
HIC!
FUJI-EDA?!
?!
HEY, SUZUKI.
OH!
HEY! DON'T THROW UP HERE!
TWITCH
LET'S GET YOU TO A TOILET!
FWOO
SCRUB SCRUB

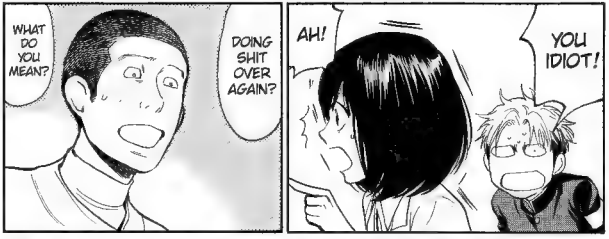
HUH?
SU-ZU-KI?
キリっ
GLARE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING SLACKING OFF IN THE BATH-ROOM?
Don't put it like that!
KANAI
ムカ…
GRRRR…
ムカ
GRR
KANAI
BLEGH…
YOU COULDN'T EVEN GET ONE OF THEM TO STRIKE OUT… IF I WERE IN YOUR SHOES, I'D DIE OF SHAME.
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KEEP WATCHING HIM PLAY LIKE THAT?
ULP!
MMPH!
I'M NOT…
IMAMURA WAS CHEERING ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE UNTIL A LITTLE BIT AGO. THEN HE SUDDENLY STARTED FEELING ILL.
BLEEGH

SORRY TO GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR GOOD TIME.
OH YEAH, YOU WERE BUSY MAKING OUT WITH SHIBATA UNDER THE STANDS, RIGHT?
HURK!
HEY!
HOW'D YOU–
YOU MADE OUT WITH REO-CHAN?!
WHAT THE HELL?
NO ONE TOLD ME.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

I DON'T BELONG ANY-WHERE!
YOU THINK EVERYONE WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME, DON'T YOU? WELL, SO DO I!
GRAAH
GRAAH
WAIT, SO HEY! DO YOU LIKE REO-CHAN?
IF YOU KISSED, DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE DATING? DON'T TELL ME YOU MADE OUT AS FRIENDS!
GRAAH
GRAAH

SU-ZU-KI!
I'M TRYING TO TALK OVER HERE!
UNH!
I WANT TO QUIT BASE-BALL...
MY LIFE IS AS GOOD AS OVER.
IT'S IN EVERYONE'S BEST INTEREST FOR ME TO QUIT.
I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE A PITCHER.
WELL, UHH ...
SUZU-KI, I MEAN ...
HOW TO PUT THIS?
UHH

THIS IS YOUR SECOND CHANCE, SO YOU COULD AT LEAST GROW UP A LITTLE! DON'T BE STUPID!
18
SUZUKI! BEFORE WE STARTED DOING SHIT OVER AGAIN, YOU QUIT BASE-BALL AND DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SHOW FOR IT BUT A WASTED YOUTH FULL OF REGRETS!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DOING SHIT OVER AGAIN?
AH!
YOU IDIOT!

KAHAN

SHWING!
WE ACCIDENTALLY CAME HERE FROM THREE YEARS IN THE FUTURE!
ACCIDENTALLY...?
YOU'RE GONNA TELL HIM?!
I MEAN, THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR SUZUKI TO GET ALL INDECISIVE! I CAN'T JUST LET IT HAPPEN!
SURE!
WHO SAYS WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TELL ANYONE?
DUM DUM
DA DA DA
HOORAAAY!
HOORAAAY!
KANAN!

STRIKE!
BATTER'S OUT!
SHOOM
ズバーン
HEY!
IS SUZUKI STILL IN THE BATHROOM?
SOMEBODY GO GET HIM!
YES, SIR!
SUZUKI!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN-
SUZUKI...
WOOSH
18
KANAN
?!
FA-
ボ
-WOOM
ア...
WH-
WHAT'S WRONG ?!

OH, NOTHING ...
WHAT THE ...?
SHWIP
18
SUUUU-DOOOO-N
SUUUU!!
DA DUM
DA DUM
HE LOOKS SO CALM ALL OF A SUDDEN. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HOW UPSET HE WAS JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

GO GYUYU!!!
YOU CAN DO IT!
Y'KNOW ... IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW.
IN REALITY, I ALREADY QUIT BASE-BALL.
I NEVER STOOD HERE AT ALL.
DUM
DA DUM
DA DUM
DA DA DA

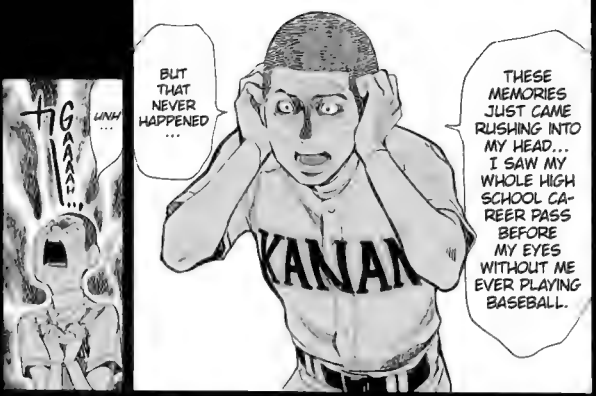
YOU'VE ALREADY LIVED THE LIFE WHERE YOU QUIT BASE-BALL.
BUT SU-ZUKI, I WANNA SEE WHAT YOUR LIFE IS LIKE WHEN YOU DON'T QUIT.
THINGS ARE STARTING TO CHANGE FOR YOU, MAN.

58. FLASHBACKS TO ANOTHER LIFE

BEFORE THIS DO-OVER...
...YOU COULDN'T EVEN BRING YOURSELF TO CONFESS YOUR FEELINGS TO THAT WELL-ENDOWED MANAGER, MINEKO.
AND ONCE HER AND THE CAPTAIN'S AFFAIR WAS OVER, THE BASEBALL TEAM COULDN'T GET OUT OF ITS SLUMP.

YOU INJURED YOUR KNEE BEFORE THE PRACTICE GAME, AND YOU WERE LIKE, "AGH, IT'S SO BAD!" EVEN AFTER IT HEALED! ALL SO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO PLAY!
THEN, YOU QUIT THE BASEBALL TEAM AND SPENT YOUR ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER MOURNING YOUR BROKEN HEART. THAT'S IT!
THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY YOU ARE!
!!!
FWISH

SNAP
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON? UUNH ...
Ahh
YOU IDIOT!
I'd like to quit the tennis club.
UUUNH...
You can do it!
UNH ...
AAAAAAGH
HEY!
WHAT IS IT, SUZUKI?


GAAAH...
UHH...
BUT THAT NEVER HAPPENED...
KANAN
THESE MEMORIES JUST CAME RUSHING INTO MY HEAD... I SAW MY WHOLE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER PASS BEFORE MY EYES WITHOUT ME EVER PLAYING BASEBALL.

NO NEED TO FREAK OUT.
HEY.
UHH...
WHY DON'T YOU TRY THINKING OF IT THIS WAY?
SWISH
SWISH
ARE YOU OKAY?

BUT SUZUKI, I WANNA SEE WHAT YOUR LIFE IS LIKE WHEN YOU DON'T QUIT.
YOU'VE ALREADY LIVED THE LIFE WHERE YOU QUIT BASEBALL.

THINGS ARE STARTING TO CHANGE FOR YOU, MAN.
BUT AT THIS RATE, YOU'RE GONNA SET YOURSELF BACK ON THE SAME TRACK YOU WERE ON BEFORE THE DO-OVER.
EEP!
DASH
18

SU-
ZU-
KI!
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
FIG-
URES.
WHY SHOULD HE BELIEVE US?
NOW HE'S EVEN MORE UPSET, AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME. THANKS A LOT, FUJIEDA.
HOW IS THAT MY FAULT?
HE'S THE ONE WHO'S TOO DELICATE TO HANDLE BEING AN ATHLETE!
WOOOOOOO
TUM
TUM
TUM
TUM

DO YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK? DO YOU NEED TO LIE DOWN?
OH, SHIBATA...
ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?
OH!
IMAMURA-KUN.
ACK!
DAMN IT, SUZUKI...
OH YEAH, YOU WERE BUSY MAKING OUT WITH SHIBATA UNDER THE STANDS, RIGHT?
IMAMURA-KUN?
...AND NOW I'VE DONE THE SAME THING?!
FIRST, HIS CAPTAIN, GOT WITH THAT MANAGER WITH THE HUGE TITS HE LIKED...
OH GOD, I'M A MONSTER!
THEY DID SEEM SORT OF CLOSE, THOUGH... GOD, I HAD NO IDEA.
DON'T TELL ME HE LIKES SHIBATA?

O-
OSU!
GET BACK HERE!
IMA-MURA!
HURK
HUH?
HMPH
NO, THANKS.
I HURT SUZUKI. IT'S MY FAULT.
SUZUKI
SUZUKI!
SUZUKI!
KAAH
KAAH
DUM

ドドーン
DA DUM
SUZUKI!
ドドーン
DA DUM
SUZUKI!
ドドーン
DA DUM
STOLE YOUR GIRL!
ドドーン
DA DUM
STOLE YOUR GIRL!
WAOA
I THINK I'M HEARING THINGS

WHIFF
KSSH
AAAGH!
THAT BATTER'S NOT EVEN TRYING.
THAT WAS AWFUL.
...
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I DO THINGS OVER...
DA DUM
SUZUKI'S A VIRGIN!
A VIRGIN FOR LIFE!
I'M HEARING THINGS AGAIN!
UNH ...
STRIKE!
FWOOSH
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT PATH I'M ON.
THAT'S RIGHT
AWWW...
18

NOTHING GOOD EVER HAP-PENS!
LIFE IS POINT-LESS!
...COME ON.
GO SUZUKI!
YOU CAN DO IT!
I KNOW THAT'S WRONG!
KUURRAAHH

パシッ
SHWIP
STRIKE!
BAT-TER'S OUT!
WHIFF
CHANGE SIDES!
タタタッ
TUP TUP TUP
HUH.
SUZUKI LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN A BETTER MOOD THAN I'D EXPECT.

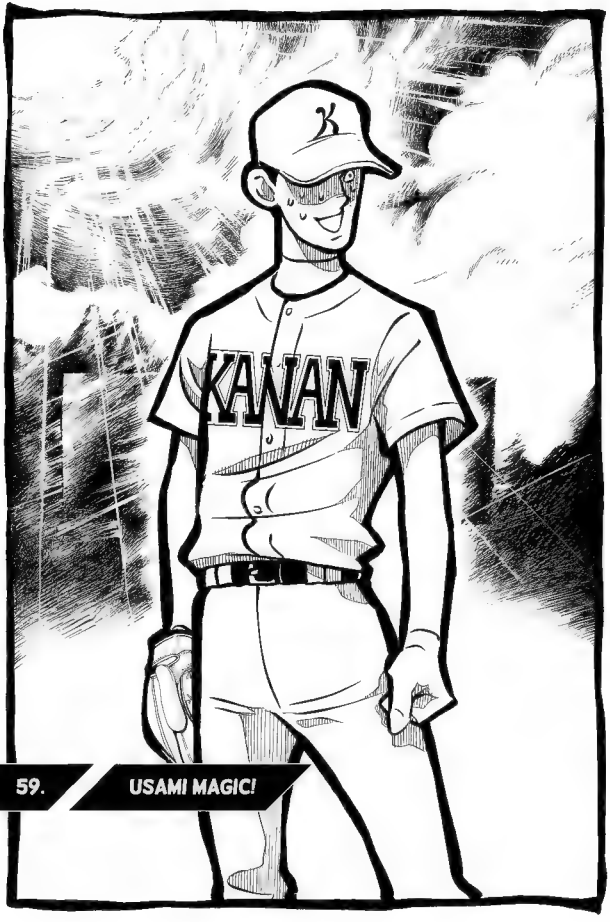
WOOOOOOO
KABO-KOKU!
OKAY.
KANAN
KANAN
SUZUKI!
YOU'VE GOTTA GET OVER IT.
YOU GOT THIS.
WHAT WAS I EVEN SCARED OF?
KABOKOKU'S OUENDAN CAPTAIN IS SO TINY IT'S CUTE.
PFFT!
KABO-KOKU!
SUDDENLY ...
DUM
DADUM
...NONE OF THIS SEEMS LIKE IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME.

STOOM
ZOOM
KANAI
HEY.
SUZUKI'S GOT IT BACK.

HUH?
OK
GLARE
THE GUY ON FIRST BASE COULDN'T CATCH IT!
GAH!
SHUMP
?!
KA-TUNG
DON'T SWEAT IT!
GAH!
SHUMP
AND NOW THE CATCHER MISSED THE BALL!
HEY...
MAYBE...
EVEN IF WE DO LOSE TODAY...

BASES ARE LOADED, NO OUTS!
IT'S NOT ALL MY FAULT!

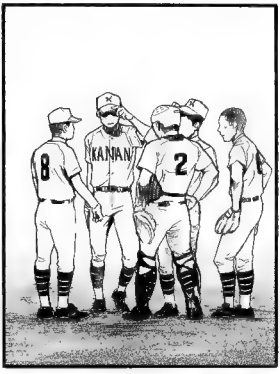
UHH, I THINK IT'S YOUR IMAGINATION.
THIS IS MY FAULT.
IS SUZUKI SMILING?

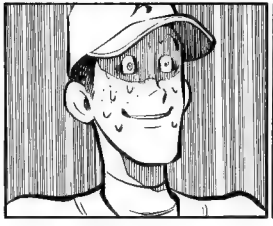


59. USAMI MAGIC!

WOOOO
ドドーン!!
DA DUM
THE SCORE IS 8-0. BASES ARE LOADED WITH NO OUTS.
KABO-KOKU'S SET UP TO SCORE A TON OF RUNS YET AGAIN!
...AND ONCE AGAIN, THINGS LOOK BLEAK FOR KABOSU MINAMI.

WAIT, YOU WANT ME TO SWITCH OUT?


KANAN
8
2



CAN YOU KEEP GOING?
ARE YOU DOING OKAY, SUZUKI?

H-HEY, I'M DOING BETTER NOW! WE'RE ONLY IN THIS SITUATION 'CAUSE YOU GUYS KEEP MESSING UP!
MRRR
GRRR
KAN
IT WOULDN'T KILL YOU TO HAVE A LITTLE FAITH IN ME!

HEY SUZUKI!
GET IT TOGETHER!
I AM!
TRY-ING!
TO DO THAT!
GRRRR
GET THAT USELESS PITCHER OFF THE FIELD, ALREADY!

RRRRRGH

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

AAAGH...
IT'S MY FAULT SUZUKI'S IN THIS POSITION... WHAT DO WE DO?

CLANG

YOU WANNA SWITCH SUZUKI OUT NOW ?!
YOU IDI-OTS !
ROAR

WHAT THE ...?
IF YOU HAVE TO SWITCH SOMEONE OUT, MAKE IT THE CAPTAIN, THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS PLAYING GRAB-ASS WITH THAT MANAGER.
HE'S THE ONE RUIN-ING THE TEAM!
SUZUKI'S JUST DOING BETTER AND BETTER!
HEY! WHAT?
GOD.
HUH?
MINEKO, I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
That's what I thought
Yeah, me too
AAAGH...

GRAAAH
GRAAAH
SHE NEVER CHANGES.
CHATTER
SHE NEEDS TO SHUT UP.
SCREECH
SHE JUST WANTS ATTENTION.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO THE OUENDAN'S CAPTAIN?
CUT IT OUT, CAPTAIN!
WHAT IF THEY LET SUZUKI KEEP PITCHING AND KABOKOKU SCORE ANOTHER RUN?
YOU'LL BOTH BE LAUGHING-STOCKS!
YOU DUMB-ASS!
YOINK

HE'S NOT A PRO FES-SIONAL BASE-BALL PLAY-ER!
AND UNTIL HE IS, KNOW WHAT RETIRING WITH GRACE COUNTS FOR?!
NOTHING!

I'M VERY SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE, MR. PRINCIPAL.
CALM DOWN! LISAMI!
R-
RIGHT...

WELL, THINGS WERE GETTING TENSE THERE.
SHE CHANGED THE MOOD IN AN INSTANT, THOUGH.
KANAN
YOU'RE ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT THE MOST SUPERFICIAL, IRRATIONAL CRAP.
YOU KEEP GOING ON ABOUT HOW IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM, IMA-MURA?
IT'S YOUR FAULT! ALL OF IT!
IF YOU WERE TRYING, THE WORLD WOULD BE FREE OF POVERTY, WAR, AND NUKES BY NOW!
HRRRGH
...THIS IS ALL MY FAULT?
SO... YOU THINK...
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE ONLY REASON SUZUKI CAN'T GET ANYONE TO STRIKE OUT IS 'CAUSE YOU'RE NOT CHEERING HARD ENOUGH!

OH, HEY!
IMAMURA, LOOK.
IT'S SUZUKI.
KANAI
LIKE HELL THIS IS MY FAULT!
I GUESS HE'S GONNA KEEP PITCHING.

CAPTAIN!
GET DOWN FROM THERE, WOULD YOU?
ALL RIGHT!

I'M GONNA STEP UP AND CHEER!
IT'S MY TURN!
IT'S ALL YOURS.
IF IT IT'S MY FAULT...
...THAT SUZUKI COULDN'T DO HIS BEST...

TIME FOR THE GO-GET-'EM CHEER!
...THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO MINE.
DUM DUM DUM
?!

DA DUM!
DUM TAKKA TAKKA!
FSSH
DUM TAKKA TAK TAK!

LOOK AT ME.
SUZUKI.
IMA-MURA?
?!

SO NOTICE ME! LOOK THIS WAY! I'M RIGHT HERE!
I'M CHEERING YOU ON OVER HERE!

SO YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO LOSE!
I'M CHEER-ING FOR YOU!

WHO'S BETTER SUITED TO CHEER FOR SUZUKI THAN ME?
NOBODY.
I MEAN, PROBABLY.
WAIT.
WHATEVER! WHO CARES?
I'M DOING THIS.
DOES HE THINK I'M BEING RIDICULOUS RIGHT NOW?

I'M CHEERING!♪
NOW LOOK AT ME!
COME ON, SUZUKI!
YOU'RE GETTING IT, IMAMURA!
CHEERING IS ALL ABOUT AGGRESSION!
SUZUKI SEEMS WEIRDED OUT, IF YOU ASK ME.
No instruments allowed while the team's on defense, so Chan-kuma can't do anything for now.
YAMAHA
...

Again!!
アゲイン!!!

60.
PONYTAIL AND JOYFUL

KABO KOKU!
DA DUM DO
WOOOO WOOOO
DO DA DUM
WHY IS IMAMURA CHEERING SO HARD FOR ME?
I MEAN, I DID ASK HIM TO CHEER ME ON, BUT STILL...
DUM TAKKA TAK TAK! DUM TAKKA TAK TAK!
TWIRL

KANAN
KANAN
"I WILL BE."
"I'M GONNA PITCH IN OUR SPRING PRACTICE GAME. AND I WANT YOU TO BE THERE CHEERING ME ON, IMAMURA."
THIS IS EMBARRASSING TO WATCH! COME ON, STOP IT!
BUT YOU'RE NOT SOME EXHIBITIONIST!
THE ONE SUZUKI LIKED.
THIS IS THE SAME DANCE FROM EARLIER.
I JUST HAVE TO BREAK THEIR STREAK ...
I JUST HAVE TO DANCE ...
...AND HE'LL BE HAPPY, RIGHT?
KANAN

BA DUMP
BA DUMP
BA DUMP
SNAP

HE'S PITCH-ING.
ZOOM

TING
SHUMP

HE CAUGHT IT!
TUP
THE RUNNERS ARE MOVING!
FWIP
SHUMP
FORCE OUT ON THIRD BASE!
AND ON SECOND!

THREE OUTS! CHANGE SIDES.
HELL YEAH!
A TRIPLE PLAY!
WOOOOO

WOOOOO
YEEEAH!
DID YOU SEE ME?!
HOW'D YOU LIKE THAT, IMAMURA?

WHOOMP!
WHY ISN'T HE REACTING?!
WOOOOOO
I MEAN, THEY'RE STILL EIGHT RUNS AHEAD OF US.
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO CELEBRATE.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
KABOKOKU 080
KANAN 00
LET'S KEEP THIS UP, GUYS.
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE UP THOSE RUNS!
AND HELL,
I'LL SAY THIS, TOO.

JUST FOL-LOW MY LEAD!
YOU GOT THIS, CAP-TAIN!
GLINT
ALL RIGHT!
GOD, WHAT?
ABE-SAN!
POINT

I WANT YOU TO TAKE THE LEAD HERE.
?!
Doo-Doo-Doo
Doooo
Dooo
Doooo
PONY-SCRUNCHIE
THAT SONG ...
Doooo
Dooo
Doo Doo
IT'S PONY-SCRUNCHIE!
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo

YOU RUN ALONG THE BEACH...
WATCHING YOUR PONYTAIL
SWAYING IN THE WIND...
KANAN

SHE MAY NOT LOOK AS GOOD AS MY BELOVED YUKI KASHIWAGI,
BUT THIS IS AWESOME!
HA-HAH!
...

HNNNNNGH!
GOOD THING THE CAPTAIN'S SO SIMPLE!
WOOOO
NEXT UP!
HIRANO!
WOOOO
WOOOO
KANAN
HE'S FROM KUROKAMI MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HE THROWS WITH HIS RIGHT, HITS WITH HIS LEFT,
AND HE'S SINGLE!
THIS IS THE SONG HE LISTENS TO BEFORE GAMES TO GET HYPED UP!
ANO
BOO
DOOT
DOOT
DOOT

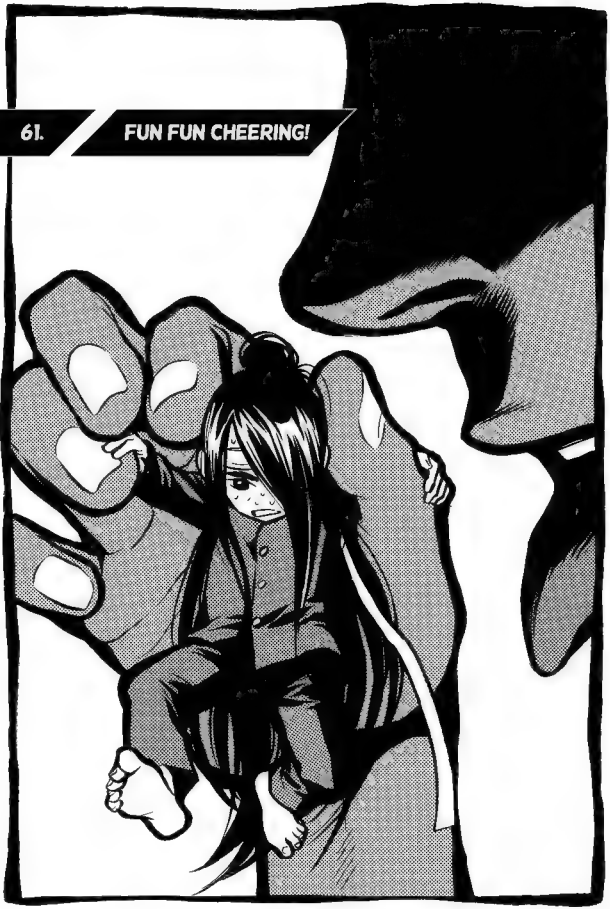
Boo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo
Dooo

HIB
JOYFUL
!!
THAT'S JOYFUL BY IKIMONO-GAKARI!
Wooooo
I SPECIFICALLY ASKED THE BRASS BAND TO PLAY IT FOR ME!
DA DUM
DUM
HIRANO!
HIRANO!
DUM

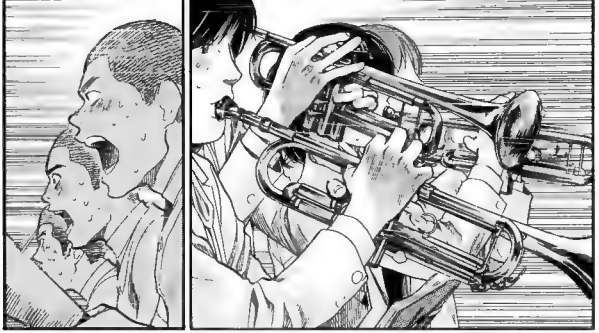
WHEN THINGS WEREN'T GOING WELL...
...IT SEEMED LIKE THE WORLD WOULD STAY THAT WAY FOREVER.

BUT NOW THINGS ARE CHANGING ALL AT ONCE.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!


61.
FUN FUN CHEERING!

ドゥン ドゥドゥ
DUM DADUM



WOOO
YAMAHA

YEEEAH!
HURK!

DUM
DUM
DA
DUM
FIRST FIGHT SONG!
KANAN
KANAN
KANAN
KANAN
KANAN
BWAH!

IWAMURA-KUN'S CHEERING...
...AND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH THE OTHERS?!

NO WAY...

?!

THIS IS...
...SORT OF FUN!
DAMN!
ACTING LIKE THIS, I MEAN!

THE GO-GET-'EM CHEER!
ALLRIIGHT!
KANAN
NICE!
THEY'RE WAY MORE INTO IT NOW.

AND FOR THE FINALE ...
...BLOW A CUTE LITTLE KISS!
SMOOCH
WHOA!
...
WOOOOO
WE'RE CHEERING ...
OH, KIN-CHAN ...
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU DANCE SO ENTHUSI-ASTICALLY.

AND THE MORE SPIRIT WE PUT INTO IT...
..THE HARDER OUR TEAM PLAYS.
TING
KANAN
THE CHEER-LEADERS, TOO.
AND THE BRASS BAND.
AND THE FANS.
EVEN THE OUENDAN.
IT'S BRINGING US ALL TOGETHER.

THIS REALLY IS FUN.
CHEERING IS FUN.
WOOOOO

WHIP
BAT-TER'S CHANGE OUT! SIDES.
SHOOOM
SHINE
FWIP
WOBBLE
FWIP
QUIVER QUIVER
OH, GOD ...
LOST IT AGAIN, HUH?
TEAM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
KABOKOKU 0 8 0 0 0 0 0
KANAN 0 0 2 0 0 0 0
CHATTER
I KNEW IT WAS OVER WHEN THEY SCORED ALL THOSE RUNS EARLIER.
IT'S SO HOT!
I'M TIRED! I WANNA GO HOME!
MOM!
WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO HIT ANYTHING SINCE THAT ONE TIME.

PHEEEWoo
BREAK TIME!

GO GET THE DRINKS.
ON IT.

FIGURES.
THIS GAME IS TURNING OUT AS BORING AS I EXPECTED, CONSIDERING OUR DISAPPOINTING BATTING LINEUP.

I MEAN, IT'S ALREADY OBVIOUS THAT WE'RE GOING TO LOSE.
SLURRRRP
WHAT-EVER.
THIS IS HOW OUR PRACTICE GAMES ALWAYS GO.
I JUST WANNA GET OUT OF HERE.
SUZUKI! YOU CAN DO IT!
WE STILL HAVE TWO IN-NINGS TO GO!
JUST HANG IN THERE!

DON'T GIVE UP!
WE CAN STILL TURN THIS GAME AROUND!
UGH.
KRRSH

Again!!
アゲイン!!!

62. KISS ME NOW!

KANOKOU
KAWAE
KAN
PAAN
PAAN
PAAN

PAAN
PAAN

SHOOOM
IS IT JUST ME...
HEY...
...OR HAS THE CROWD STOPPED CHEERING AS HARD?
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
STRIKE! YER OUT!
PUMP
OH YEAH!

YOU CAN DO IT!
SHIZUKU!
GO GO GO!
ARE YOU OKAY, IMAMURA? WE'RE ON DEFENSE, SO YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK FOR NOW.
Need some water?

ゴクッ GLUG
ゴクッ GLUG
ゴクッ GLUG

WE STILL HAVEN'T SCORED ONCE SINCE BEFORE.
ぶはっ GASP

KABOKOKU
0800000
KANAN
0020000
WITH JUST TWO INNINGS TO GO, MAKING UP FOR A SIX-RUN DIFFERENCE COULD BE ROUGH...
HONESTLY, I FEEL THE SAME WAY..

HEY, CHAN-KUMA.
YEAH, I'M FINE!
YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE ALL THE DRUMMING ON YOUR OWN?
YOINK
HEY HEY HEY! LET ME SEE YOUR HANDS!
NOOO! DON'T TAKE MY GLOVES OFF!
...

I'M DRUMMING NOW.
GO GET THOSE LOOKED AT.
THE GAME'S NOT OVER YET!
SMACK!!!
OSU!
...

CHANKUMA'S BEEN DOING ALL THE DRUMMING THIS WHOLE TIME, BUT I GUESS HIS HANDS HAVE REACHED THEIR LIMIT.
YOU CAN DO IT!
AND RAKKI SUGA'S VOICE HAS GONE SO HOARSE HE CAN BARELY YELL.

THIS REALLY IS FUN.
CHEERING IS FUN.
THAT DIDN'T LAST LONG! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN...

IT'S HAPPENING TO EVERYONE.
THEY'RE GETTING TIRED OF CHEERING FOR A LOST CAUSE.

WAIT.
HEY!
THIS ISN'T GOING ANY-WHERE.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
OH...
OKAY, OKAY. WHY DON'T WE GO EAT OUT?
MOM! I'M HUNGRY!

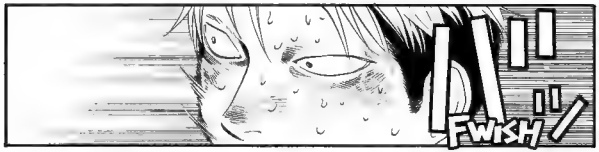
BESIDES, IT'S OBVIOUS WE'RE GOING TO LOSE AT THIS POINT.
WE HAVE CLUB STUFF TO GET TO.
YOU'RE LEAVING AL-READY? YOU COULD AT LEAST STAY AND CHEER UNTIL THE END.
COME ON.

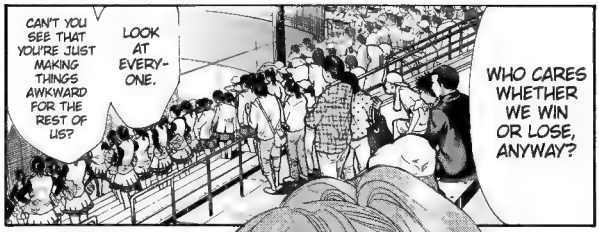
I MEAN, HONESTLY, THIS IS PRETTY BORING TO WATCH.
KABOS

THE ENERGY IN KABOKOKU'S STANDS...
....HASN'T DROPPED ONE BIT THIS WHOLE TIME.
AND SEEING THAT...
WOOOOO
DA DUM
...OUR SCHOOL'S FANS FEEL MORE AND MORE LIKE GIVING UP.
KABO KOKU!
KABO KOKU!
KANAN
DA DUM
BOOOOO

SUZUKI! CALM DOWN!
IT'S OKAAAY!
...BUT LOOK TO THE CAPTAIN FOR HOPE.
I CAN'T HELP...
YET...
WHAT IS EVERYONE ELSE SUPPOSED TO DO IF THE OUENDAN GIVES UP?!
YOU SHOUT TOO, IMAMURA!
I MEAN... I'D JUST FEEL PATHETIC CHEERING AT THIS POINT...
...
...
...

WE CAN TELL YOU'RE USING YOUR LOOKS TO TRY TO MAKE THE PRINCIPAL LIKE YOU.
YOU JUST WANT ATTENTION, AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE CHEERING ON YOUR OWN, ISN'T IT?
HE'S RIGHT.
IT HURTS TO WATCH YOU LIKE THIS, USAMI-SAN.


FWISH


CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOU'RE JUST MAKING THINGS AWKWARD FOR THE REST OF US?
LOOK AT EVERY-ONE.
WHO CARES WHETHER WE WIN OR LOSE, ANYWAY?

I KNOW YOU MUST BE EAGER TO GET BACK TO THE CLUB ROOM SO YOU CAN FOOL AROUND WITH THAT IMAMURA GUY.
YOU NEED TO QUIT CHEERING ALREADY.

...
ABE-TAMA!
グイッ
YOINK
WANNA PUNCH ME?
CAUSE ANOTHER SCANDAL IN FRONT OF EVERY-ONE?
BE MY GUEST.

MWAH

I'D DO IT WITH ANYONE, ANYTIME.
IT'S JUST A KISS.
WHOOA!
G-
GET OFF ME!
MMF!
THEY'RE KISSING!
THOSE GIRLS ARE KISSING!
WHAT HAP-PENED?
?
KISS ME RIGHT NOW!
THWUNK!
Fuck!!
DASH!!

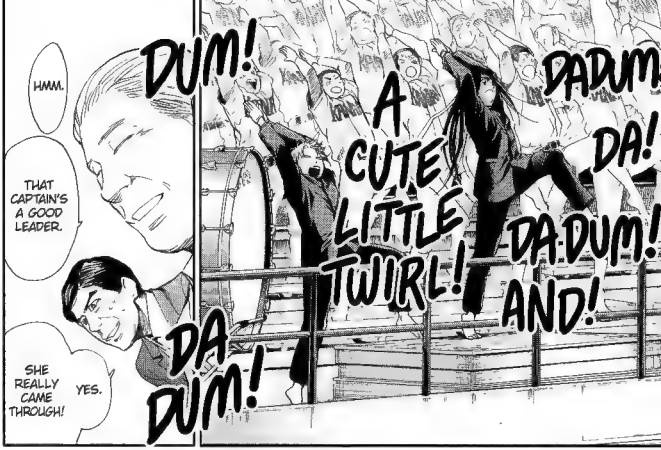
WE'RE HERE TO CHEER!
AND CHEER-ING'S NOT ABOUT LOGIC!
IT'S NOT ABOUT FIGURING OUT WHO WILL WIN AND WHO WILL LOSE IN ADVANCE!
HELL NO!
CHEER-ING'S ABOUT BELIEVING YOU'LL WIN UNTIL THE VERY END!

DAMN...
THAT'S OUR CAPTAIN.
SHE DOESN'T LET ANYTHING HOLD HER BACK!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
LET'S CHEER UNTIL THE VERY END!
YEEEAHHH!
AWESOME!

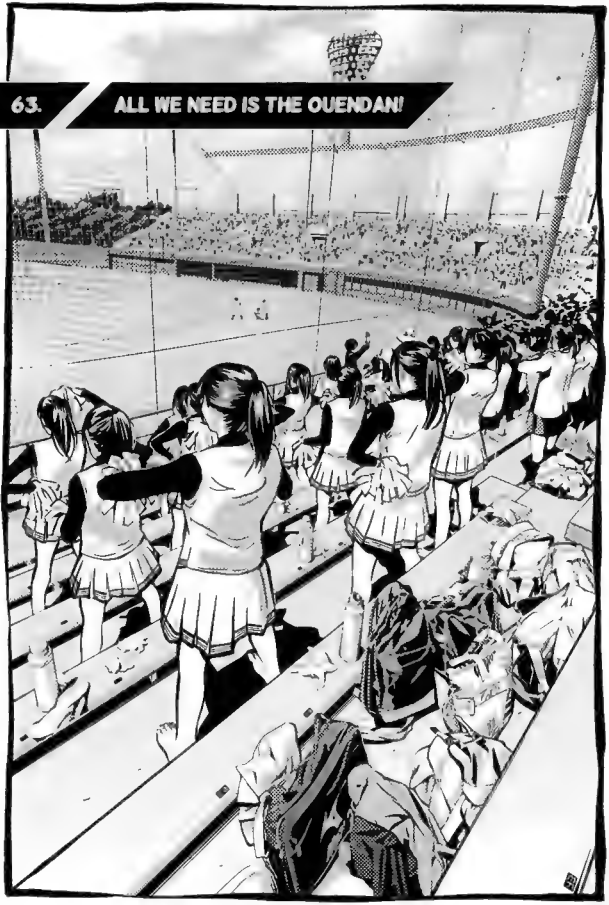
THIS ISN'T LIKE WHEN WE STARTED.
NOW...
...EVERYONE'S LOOKING TO THE CAPTAIN FOR HOPE.
DA-DUM!

DUM TAKKA TAK TAK!
THEY'RE JUST YELLING IT...
HEY...

DA DUM!
KEEP ON CHEERING.
TUM! DUM!
THEY KNOW WHAT SHE WOULD DO...


DUM!
A CUTE LITTLE TWIRL!
DADUM
DA!
DA-DUM!
AND!
HMM.
THAT CAPTAIN'S A GOOD LEADER.
DA DUM!
SHE REALLY CAME THROUGH!
YES.

WOOO
WOOO
WOOO
AFTER ALL, SHE'S ALWAYS AT KOSHIEN IN SPIRIT.


63.
ALL WE NEED IS THE OUENDAN!

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN WE'D LOSE.
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
MY SENPAI ASKED ME TO SHOW UP AND CHEER TODAY, BUT IT SHOULD BE FINE TO GO HOME NOW.
NAGAOSU CITY PUBLIC BASEBALL STADIU
HUH?!
YEEEAH!
HEY.
DUM! DA DUM!
WHAT?
DID WE SCORE?
WE'RE ON DE-FENSE, THOUGH!

SO, HOW'S THE GAME GOING?
OH, HEY, HIRO. AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE AT SOCCER PRAC-TICE?
OH, NO. NOT TODAY.
WELL, IT'S THE TOP OF THE NINTH, AND KANAN'S LOSING.
I SEE ...
WELL, THAT'S BORING.

DA-
DUM!
DUM!
DUM
DUM
DUM

WHAT IS IT?
IS SOMETHING HAPPENING?
WOO
WHY'S EVERYBODY DANCING?
HUH?

YEEEEE'AAHH!
JUST ONE MORE OUT, SUZUKI!
WE'RE GONNA MAKE A HUGE COMEBACK IN THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH!
A COMEBACK, HUH?
SOUNDS LIKE THE OUENDAN'S GOT THEIR HEAD IN THE CLOUDS.
GET REAL.

WE'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL, DAMN IT!
THERE'S NO LAW OF NATURE THAT SAYS WE HAVE TO LOSE!
YEEEAH!
WAIT ...
THAT'S IMAMURA?

HIRO-KUN! YOU CAME!
HE'S TRYING SO HARD, HE LOOKS RIDICU-LOUS.
It's hilarious.
DID HE ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THAT?
WO
OOO

HUH.
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE! WE'RE ALL BARE-FOOT SO WE CAN CHEER THE TEAM ON!
HUH?
FUJIEDA, WHY ARE YOU BARE-FOOT?
...
OH MY GOD, IT'S BEEN SO GREAT!
SUZUKI'S BEEN PITCH-ING THIS WHOLE TIME, AND, UHH...

AAAAA
I MEAN, IT'S JUST A PRACTICE GAME. WHO EVEN CARES?
...WHAT?
SO, YOU GUYS SERIOUSLY THINK YOU CAN TURN A SIX-RUN DIFFERENCE AROUND?
8 9 10 R
0 0
0
8
2

WHAM!!
QUIT ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY!

WHAT THE HELL?
UH!
I MEAN, 'CAUSE THAT'S LIKE ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT YOU, HIRO-KUN!

WE'LL GET BACK ON IT IN THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH!
RIGHT!

ABE-TAMA! YOU'VE GOTTA HELP US CHEER!
TWITCH
WHAT-EVER!
RIGHT NOW, YOU GUYS ARE THE ONES WHO CAN STILL YELL.
SO, FOR THE NINTH INNING,
LET'S CHEER TOGETHER.
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE, ASKING ME TO HELP YOU CHEER WHEN YOU CAN'T EVEN DO IT YOURSELF.
ANYWAY, UNTIL WE'RE IN THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH,
WOULD YOU GUYS TAKE A STEP BACK?

WOOHOO
IN THE MEAN-TIME...
...I'LL KEEP THE CROWD CHEER-ING MYSELF!
KANAN
KANAN
GO, SUZU-KI!
UHH, UUUHH, I WANNA START DRUMMING, ALREADY...
YAMAHA
CLENCH

AND SUZUKI PUTS A STOP TO KABO-KOKU'S OFFENSE!
STRIKE! YER OUT!
POUND
ALL RIGHT!
YEEEAH!
IT'S THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH!
THIS IS OUR LAST INNING!
HEY!
KABOKOKU BROUGHT IN A NEW PITCHER!
HUH?

WHO ?!
ANDRE!
THAT'S THE GUY WHO TRANSFERRED TO KABOKOKU FROM SOUTH DAKOTA EARLIER THIS SPRING!
WELL, WELL, WELL
BOSU
Super Science
I HEAR HE ALREADY HAS A JAPANESE GIRLFRIEND, TOO. HER NAME'S SARINA.
ANDREEE!
I LOVE YOOOU!
WHO CARES ?!

SLAM DUNK
...
...
YEEEAH!
ANDRE! ANDRE!
ACK!
CHAN-KUMA!
PAHAHA
?

KANAN'S GONE AWFULLY QUIET FOR A TEAM ON THE OFFENSE.
HUUUUSH

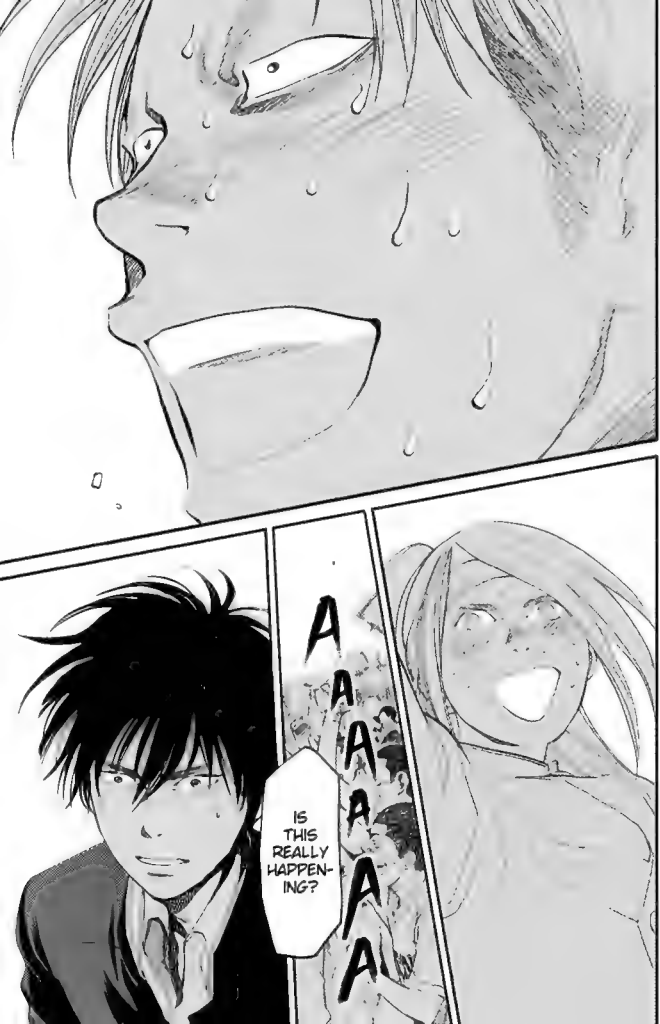
HEY! ANDRE!
DUM
FLINCH
?...
THANK THAT UGLY-ASS GIRLFRIEND OF YOURS FOR US!
IT WAS AWFULLY KIND OF HER TO GO SO FAR FOR OUR WHOLE BASEBALL TEAM! SHE'S JUST THE SLUT WE WERE PRAYING FOR!
YAMADA
DUM
DUM
ASK HER TO #?$@ MINE, TOO!
?!

?
TURN
KSS

CHATTER...
WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?
I DON'T KNOW... SOMETHING IN ENGLISH.
CHATTER...
Fuck!!
HAHA!
GRRRR
THAT'S SO VULGAR.
TH-
YOU.
LITTLE.
SHIT!
Zoom

I KNEW ANDRE WASN'T QUITE READY YET.
THE BAT-TER GOT HIT!
LET HIM WALK!
THAT WAS A BALL!
WILD PITCH!
AAAAAG-H
Shit!

WOOOOO
TWO RUNS!
THAT'S A RUN!
THE BASES WERE LOADED WHEN HE WALKED!
KANAN


AAAAAA
IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING?

HE DID IT.
HE CHANGED WHAT HAPPENED THREE YEARS AGO.

HUH?
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, HIRO-KUN?
NO...
IT WAS NOTHING.

64.
THE WORLD BEYOND

IT'S THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH, KANAN'S LAST CHANCE, AND THEY'VE SCORED FOUR RUNS SO FAR!
WOOO
KANAN
YEEEAH!
NOW THEY'RE ONLY TWO RUNS BEHIND!

HELL, WE MIGHT EVEN MAKE A COME-BACK!
WE CAN EVEN THE SCORE!
SHIT!
THEY'VE GOT PLAYERS ON SECOND AND THIRD BASES WITH TWO OUTS!
TEAM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
KABOKOKU 0 8 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 8
KANAN 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 4 6
JUST TWO MORE RUNS AND WE'LL BE TIED!
TWO MORE RUNS...

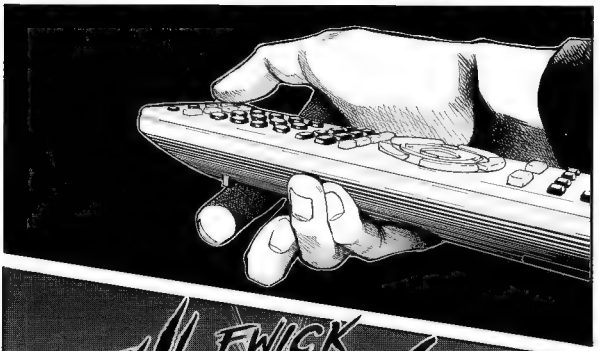
...I NEVER WOULD'VE EXPECTED THINGS TO WORK OUT LIKE THIS.
UNTIL NOW...
I HAD NO IDEA LIFE COULD BE SO MUCH LIKE A MOVIE.
DAMN.
THIS IS AMA-ZING.
I WOULD ALWAYS CHANGE THE CHANNEL WHEN MY TEAM STARTED LOSING.
BUT IF YOU PUSH BE-YOND THAT MO-MENT...
...CAN YOUR CHEERING CHANGE THE WORLD?
KANAMI

WHEN YOU MOVE FORWARD...
...AND SEE WHAT YOU COULDN'T BEFORE...
YAMAHA
...WHO KNOWS WHAT'S POSSIBLE?

KA-
TING
I CAN DO THIS!

HE'S LEAVING THIRD ...
YEEEAH!
...AND HE MADE IT TO HOME PLATE!
THERE'S SUZUKI!
HE'S ROUND-ING THIRD!
!!
TUP
TUP
HERE COMES THE THROW TO HOME!

IT'S
NO USE.

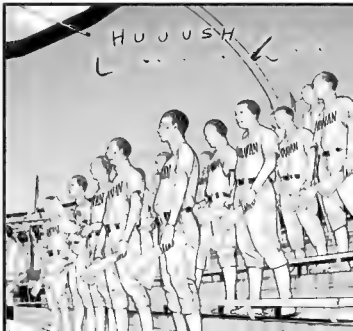


FWICK

WOO
GASP
AND HE'S OUT!
THAT'S IT FOR TODAY'S GAME!

AND IT GOES TO KABO-KOKU!
AAAAA
KABOSU
KABOSU
Super C

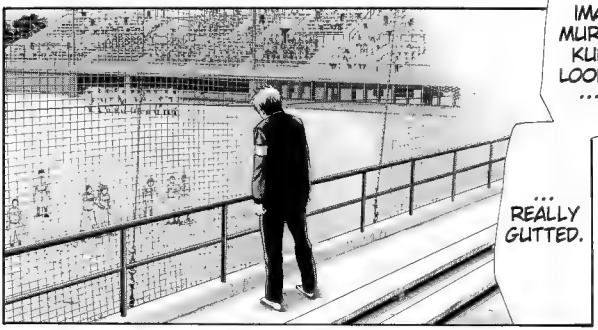
Hup
ムン...


HUUUSH

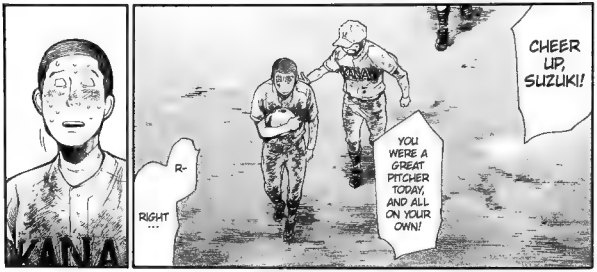
6 7 8 9 10
0000 8
0005 7
KABO-KOKU WINS!

KA!
BO!
KOKU!
WE COULDN'T WIN, NOT EVEN WITH A DO-OVER.
WOOOO
KABO KOKU!
HOORAY!
HOORAY!
WOOOO

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
DA DUM
DA DUM
AAAGH...
THEY BEAT US.
KABO KOKU!
KABO KOKU!
I KNEW IT. SEE?
IN REAL LIFE, THINGS DON'T WORK OUT LIKE IN THE MOVIES.
...
OWWW, GOD! STOP IT, AKI!


IMA-MURA-KUN LOOKS ...
... REALLY GUTTED.

I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN HIM HARD ENOUGH, LONG ENOUGH.
I FAILED.


CHEER UP, SUZUKI!
YOU WERE A GREAT PITCHER TODAY, AND ALL ON YOUR OWN!
R-
RIGHT ...

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 7

THIS IS THE AFTERWORD!

Last summer, I went to see a high school baseball regional qualifier for research purposes. It was a really hot day—so hot that the ouendan's blazers were getting stained white from all the sweat. I immediately thought "I'm gonna draw that!" ...But the plot of this manga's still stuck in the spring.

Mitsurou Kubo, September 2012

My Agent: Hiromi Sakitani

My Assistants: Shunsuke Ono
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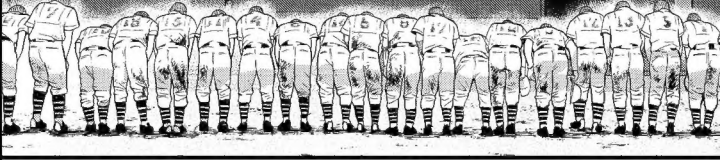
Rana Satou

IN VOLUME 7

HER LIFE'S TURNING POINT!

IT ONCE SENT HER LIFE SPIRALING DOWN, AND NOW

THE PRACTICE GAME IS OVER.



THEY KISSED.

NOW, ARE KINICHIRO AND REO GOING TO PICK UP WHERE THEY LEFT OFF?!

WRACKED WITH GUILT, HOW WILL THESE TWO REACT WHEN THEY RUN INTO EACH OTHER AFTER THE GAME?

AND WHAT ABOUT USAMI'S FUTURE?

HAS IT CHANGED?

THINGS AREN'T LIKE THEY WERE THREE YEARS AGO. IT'S FULL SPEED AHEAD TOWARD AN UNKNOWN FUTURE!

Again!!

VOLUME 7 COMING SOON!

Again!! 6

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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